

APRIL 5, 1949
554th BROADCAST

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BULLETIN OF AMERICA'S TOWN MEETING OF THE AIR

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Is Modern Woman Failing Her Responsibilities?

Moderator, GEORGE V. DENNY, Jr.

Speakers

MRS. JOSEPH M. PURCELL FAYE EMERSON ROOSEVELT

DAVID L. COHN

HARRISON SMITH

(See also page 13)

COMING

APRIL 19, 1949

**Should the Senate Ratify the
North Atlantic Pact?**

APRIL 26, 1949

**How Can We Find Personal Peace and
Security in Today's World?**

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Town Meeting



BULLETIN OF AMERICA'S TOWN MEETING OF THE AIR

GEORGE V. DENNY, JR., MODERATOR



APRIL 5, 1949

VOL. 14, No. 49

Is Modern Woman Failing Her Responsibilities?

Moderator Denny:

Good evening, neighbors. We are happy, indeed, to be the guests tonight of the Louisville Federation of Teachers, most of whom are women, and our local sponsor, the Riggs Motor Company, which has been with us since we started co-operative sponsorship more than two years ago.

Now in the second chapter of Genesis, man's need for woman is described as follows: "And the Lord God said, it is not good that man should be alone. I will make him an helpmeet for him."

I don't know whether that's the modern concept or not, but from the beginning of time, the most fascinating stories in the world have been those involving the relationship between men and women. So it's no wonder that for three weeks, on all the ballots we distribute each week to our Town Hall listeners, tonight's subject, "Is Modern Woman Failing Her Responsibilities?" came out on the top of the list.

Actually, it was a letter from a listener who is one of our speakers tonight which caused us to put this subject on the ballot. Today's modern woman in America actually has more freedom and more power on a larger scale than woman has had before in any other age. Thirty years ago, woman gained the suffrage and became the equal of man before the law, but I think that Mrs. Purcell, Mrs. Roosevelt, Mr. Smith, and Mr. Cohn, and you and I are more interested in the human side of this question than its legal aspects.

What of woman as mother of all of us, who, under her influence during the period when our characters are being formed, has greater control over each and every one of us?

What of woman as wife and sweetheart of man, who builds and destroys big and little things?

What is woman doing with her ever-increasing economic power? With power goes responsibility. Has modern woman failed in her responsibility?

Of course, we all have our opinions on this question, depending largely upon our own experiences, so we'll be particularly interested tonight in the sharp clash of opinions by Mr. Cohn and Mrs. Purcell who believe that modern women have failed in their responsibilities and Mr. Smith and Mrs. Roosevelt who believe that they have not.

We'll hear first from the gentleman from Mississippi, whose latest book, *Where I Was Born and Raised*, adds further laurels to his brilliant literary career which he entered some 15 years ago after a successful business career in New Orleans and New York. I take pleasure in presenting Mr. David L. Cohn of Greenville, Mississippi. Mr. Cohn. (*Applause.*)

Mr. Cohn:

Modern woman is failing her responsibilities for three reasons among a great many others: First, because she has mistaken freedom to be license; second, because she has become an anarchist in a \$29.95 dress, incapable of understanding any social organization that does not regard the indulging of woman as its first purpose; and third, because she insists upon being independent in marriage, when the cornerstone of the structure is interdependence. She does not understand, or refuses to understand, that in her relations with her husband she cannot be complete within herself, but only complementary to him.

For these reasons thousands of

women regard their husbands not as mates, or men, or even milds, but as mats; not as comrades, but as providers; not as friends, but as a combination redcap, dragoman, butler, escort, and animated me ticket.

They demand all that the train will bear and give as little as possible in return, except what they whiningly allude to when challenged as "the best years of my life." Thus they become, whether they live in California type bungalows on Main Street or in din store type palaces in Palm Beach, size-14 royalists who rule without reigning and receive without rendering.

Such women are always complaining that they are misunderstood, and this is an important item in their little bag of tricks, but they would face a worse fate if they were understood.

It is part of their imaginary that their little souls are always cold, and consequently they about warming them with silks wrapped hot-water bottles of self esteem.

Occasionally, one has the bad luck to run across such a misunderstood woman at a dinner. Married to a man of distinction in the arts, sciences, or business, she takes the floor and talks in terms as subtle as the movements of a 10-ton dump truck. (*Laughter.*) The object of her yapping is to convince the company that when her husband is famous, it is she who is the misunderstood and

tle appreciated genius of the family. Her husband owes it all to her, and if she had not made the terrible mistake of marrying Herbert and bringing up his children, she would have become a world famous actress, dancer, decorator, and wrecked a few European thrones in her spare moments.

For such a woman, marriage is not a full-time career; it is a part-time job. If she has had a child or two in a fit of abstraction (*laughter*), they are soon shunted off to kindergartens, schools, and camps. The important thing is that she must cultivate her personality.

To her, generosity of spirit is a one-way street; intimacy, which is more than the reluctant flesh tepidly given, a dark area to be avoided. Often, she lives above her husband's means in order to gain her ends. He can grind away at his desk in the hot city, but she, the fragile one, must go off to the sea or the mountains, and so many week ends are allotted to Herbert as so many coupons used to be contained in our ration books. While, if the good old creature should die, she would sleep contentedly the rest of her life, her head pillowed on the voluptuous bosom of life insurance.

How does the American husband escape all this? He has two devices. One is divorce. Then he remarries and finds himself in the dilemma from which he has just escaped.

The other is death. By dying, he makes a clean getaway, and he

does it so often and so persistently that American women outlive their husbands by five years on the average. (*Laughter.*)

If many women fail to discharge their responsibilities within the family, so they fail in their relations toward the community and the state. When they were seeking the vote some 20 years ago, they said that they would pasteurize impure politics. Have they done so? Or do they vote according to papa's economic interests?

What mother in this country brings up her son to become a public servant?

What mother encourages her son to serve this Nation in a distant foreign land?

How many mothers joined in the postwar clamor that caused an hysterical demobilization overnight of the world's mightiest fighting force, and, so, largely made possible the terrible ills from which we now suffer?

In the small and medium-sized towns of the United States, women gather funds to convert the heathen of distant lands, but how many go into the local jails to uncover the horrors perpetrated daily upon helpless men? How many visit the poorhouses or the justice of the peace courts?

So, too, thousands of untrained women go poking around local schools to the immense annoyance of the schoolmasters, but how many conduct an intelligent table conversation when their children are present? How many subscribe

to magazines likely to stimulate the youthful intelligence? How many buy good books for their children to read?

Mr. Smith will answer these questions for you. I should say that women certainly need no defense, but apparently they do need defending in that melancholy task which he will now take over. (*Laughter and applause.*)

Moderator Denny:

Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Cohn. You certainly hurled one at Mr. Smith. Our next speaker is a rare phenomenon, a man who has been a newspaperman, editor, and publisher, responsible for the first books of many of today's distinguished writers, but who has not himself written a book. Harrison Smith is a genuine Connecticut Yankee, born in Hartford, Connecticut, and, like Mr. Cohn, a graduate of Yale University. But unlike Mr. Cohn, he takes the opposite side of tonight's question. Harrison Smith, associate editor and president of the *Saturday Review of Literature*. Mr. Smith.

Mr. Smith:

I'm not as depressed in defending women as Mr. Cohn says. In fact I've been doing it for a long time, and the more I do it, the more I enjoy it. Mr. Cohn is an old friend of mine, and while I disagree profoundly with what he has said, I admire his courage in saying it. He's liable to lose a few girl friends when he goes back

somewhere, for I know few men who get along better with what I might call the perverse or delinquent sex than he does.

If you have read his book, *Love in America*, you will discover that he is a satirist. To satirize or ridicule women is one of the oldest literary devices. It has two advantages for the man. It establishes a man's mind his own intellectual supremacy and provokes women's curiosity and, alas, too often over admiration.

But I choose to treat a subject that deals with half the population of America more seriously. The American woman today lives in a dynamic time from which there can be no retreat. She cannot stand still. She must move forward to assume even greater responsibilities.

Woman's progress has been checked in the past by discriminatory legislation, but the doors are opening one by one to all the once forbidden professions — business, finance, law, medicine, and politics.

No scientist has discovered that a woman's brain is a poorer instrument than a man's. No man of intelligence wants women to return to become the disinherited, uneducated, domestic slaves of a century ago, or the breeders of millions of innumerable children. Indeed, where would she put the children if she had them?

In her home, today, she is cook, housekeeper, servant, nurse, mother, and a wife — a wife who is asked to spend 80 per cent of her

national income, and who does not always appreciate that privilege when she drudges around day after day in the department stores.

She wishes her husband would take a greater part in her burdens, very often, especially in the discipline and education of her children, for the American male is most remiss when it comes to that part of a woman's life, or the life of his home.

She is more than often apt to be a contributor to the family income, and often the sole support of children and indigent relatives. Only 15 per cent of these millions of working women, from career women to scrub women, do not have to support somebody, including husbands.

In her community, she is the major force behind civic improvements, civic culture, and local charities, whether by direct effort or by the old method of domestic persuasion.

As a voter she has been accused of following her husband's lead, though, in any united family, she is subject to the same economic, cultural, and literary forces that influence the males and, therefore, can be expected on the whole to have the same opinions.

In business or politics, she has almost no part. She is not wanted there, either on civic councils or state or national legislatures. Incidentally, the new state of India has seven times as many women in its legislative bodies as the United States of America after al-

most twenty years of woman's vote.

Mr. Cohn has called the American women materialistic. It is true, if she is idle—and through our prosperity too many women are idle—for then she is apt to be extravagant and to drive her husband to earn more and more money. But that is true of only a small proportion of women. Most women properly ask for a comfortable home, for the means to dress well, and for a good education for their children.

For the sake of the male ego, she is often willing to let her husband feel that he is the center of the universe. But if he fails too dismally in his obligations, she may go out to work and bring home the necessary cash herself.

If it is a human failing, Mr. Cohn, to want to succeed, to be ambitious for social position, for greater comfort, or for greater security, it is a universal failing in both men and women. Do you think that ambition is a virtue in men and a vice in women?

Men created the mechanical, competitive civilization in which we live. If it is evil, then men and women alike have become its victims.

Part of women's new freedom is sharing the privileges of men. Whether the children of these liberated mothers become delinquents as a result is anybody's guess, for statistics show that they come from every type of class and family.

Women are accused of taking seriously the accent on permanent youth and beauty emphasized in magazines and advertising, but is it a vice to appear to be youthful? A vast cosmetic and advertising business has been created by men who have founded it upon this desire for youth and beauty. It is a part of modern life, and it is here to stay.

Mr. Cohn would say that American men love women, but they do not like them. Both sexes are blamed for whatever truth there is in this dubious and common witticism. In fact, most of the attacks by moralists and satirists on women are founded on their being human beings.

The gradual emergence toward equality with men has upset old institutions and especially the established relations between the sexes. Thus, women are asking for more of men's companionship and affection than men will give. And men are blaming women for their failure to be happy in a world which gives them greater opportunities but denies them equal power and opportunity.

Women do not want to compete with men, but wish to supplement them, to become their partners at home and in the business and political world. Their record in the war years proved that they had the capacity for any of the world's tasks they wished to assume, or men will let them assume.

Their advance is like an ocean

tide. It cannot be stopped until companionship is reestablished between the sexes by granting women the respect and equality that is their due. They are helping to build the American way of life. Their services and their special gifts of intuition and patience are needed. If we fail, then they will share the blame with men who helped to make them what they are, as women have, in turn, created and educated the American man. (*Applause.*)

Moderator Denny:

Thank you, Mr. Smith. All during the past year you, our listeners, have been suggesting that we have some John and Jane Doe on the program, but I think you all agree that it's a pretty hard job just to single out one person and say, "Tonight you will be Jane Doe and speak for modern women."

However, our next speaker would not be on tonight's program if she had not taken the trouble to write a most fascinating letter on this subject two months ago following our Philadelphia program on the subject "Is Education Meeting the Needs of Modern Man?"

Mrs. Joseph M. Purcell, housewife of Wakefield, Massachusetts, is a very unusual Jane Doe. She is an active member of the National Council of Jewish Woman, is president of her local chapter of Hadassah, and is co-leader of a Greek Books Discussion Group in Wake-

field. She is not a college graduate, but is one of the millions of American women who had an excellent high school education—Camden, New Jersey, High School, to be exact—who has continued to learn and study on her own initiative. She picks her radio programs, movies, and books with great care. We are very glad she was listening to Town Meeting on the night of January 25. Mrs. Joseph M. Purcell. (*Applause.*)

Mrs. Purcell:

Mr. Denny, I, too, am glad I was listening on January 25, but then I always listen to Town Meeting.

Tonight I'm really in a dilemma. I certainly don't agree entirely with Mr. Cohn, and I do agree with much that Mr. Smith has said. Actually, I have been trying to understand why we are in such a mess, why we are so confused, why we are divided into opposing groups and opposing nations of human beings.

As I sat by my radio after that program on January 25, for more than an hour, and tried to find the key to this question, a picture of the real culprit appeared—Woman. Woman—who can be all the things Mr. Cohn described; woman—who can be all the things Mr. Smith described; woman—who can make or break nations because she is the greatest influence on her mate—Man.

I accuse modern woman of being responsible for man's increas-

ing materialism, his frustrations, conflicts, and neuroses, his decreasing life span, and the shearing of his Samsonian strength.

I accuse her of contaminating her natural role of guide and teacher of the young with confusion and hypocrisy. She clings to the privileges of the weaker sex while wielding an iron fist in a very, very velvet glove.

I accuse woman of wanting the wrong things, and man of getting them for her.

On what do I base these charges? On the fact that modern woman has thoughtlessly misdirected her innate powers.

We women spend most of the family budget, and control, by our approval, the rest of it. This economic power is something of which we are very aware, and we've done a good job.

But woman fails to realize her greater moral potentialities in her everyday family and community life. Woman, through her gift of love, has the influence even to prevent wars. We could be modern Lysistratas by recognizing that we are the core of man's basic need for love, especially in the form of approval and acceptance. (*Applause.*)

Our men want to provide the things we want. They want to embody what we approve. Therefore, we must want the right things.

Excuse me, Mr. Cohn and Mr. Smith, but our men are clay in our hands. Therefore, what our men are and what they do, the kind of

a world they build, is our responsibility.

What is it that modern woman wants? The author of the currently important play, "The Mad Woman of Chaillot," has put it as well as it can be put when he depicts a group of greedy glamour girls as the most powerful pressure group in the world.

However, this lobby for materialism isn't limited to any special group. It's evident in every modern American home. How does it operate? On what does it feed? On pride and the desire for pride in the wrong things.

We are not wicked, but we are guilty. We tell our children all the maxims and virtuous words in the Good Book. We send them to church and to Sunday School. But what do they see in our eyes and our faces in everyday living?

Certainly, we tell them they should be good and kind like Dad. But imagine the confusion and bewilderment in their minds when they hear Mother berating Dad because Bill Spivens got the promotion at the office that Dad should have got, or that the neighbor's husband has just bought his wife a fur coat or a new car, while we have absolutely nothing to wear and our car's an old junk heap.

We need good teachers, too, who have something to give to our young. But have you ever seen a mother boast that her son wants to be a teacher, especially after another woman has just said that

her son is studying business administration?

Let's stop talking out of both sides of our mouths. Let's know our spiritual values as well as know our financial ones, and consider them equally as important. Let's define these values, measure them, and insist upon them by creating a popular demand for them.

I have yet to see a man or group of men who can resist a woman or group of women who are determined on what they want. Let's stop this vogue for pride in possession and successes judged only by the result board.

Let's educate women to understand that by virtue of just being women they bear a responsibility of power which must govern their every word, act, or even gesture. (Applause.)

Moderator Denny:

Thank you, Mrs. Purcell. You made a very good Jane Doe, incidentally. Mr. Cohn will be particularly interested to know that our next speaker is a native southerner, born in Elizabeth, Louisiana, and that she spent part of her childhood in Texas and Chicago before her family moved to California. Fay Emerson started her acting career in San Diego, but soon made her way into the bright lights of Hollywood. However, she was not content with stardom in the movies, and soon moved to Broadway where she achieved great success this season in M. Nar's delightful comedy "T

Play's the Thing," which only recently closed.

In 1944, Miss Emerson became Mrs. Elliott Roosevelt, and is now casting an alert eye on radio and television offerings. We are very happy, indeed, to have so distinguished a career girl, housewife, and mother to speak on the affirmative of tonight's question. Mrs. Faye Emerson Roosevelt. (Applause.)

Mrs. Roosevelt:

Mr. Cohn's statements are a challenge to any red-blooded American woman. Nothing stimulates a woman like a prejudiced bachelor. (Laughter.) Mr. Smith has intelligently presented an objective defense. I'm not so objective. I must admit to a high degree of personal prejudice on this subject.

I'm a woman, and, I think I may say, a modern woman. It does not necessarily follow, though, that this automatically establishes me on the side of my sex. Some of the best 16-carat needling of the ladies comes from the ladies. Don't you agree, Mrs. Purcell? They are constantly searching, probing, hacking, with possibly a hint of clawing, at the structure, psyche, and private habits of the so-called "modern woman."

Not for me. I'm on the girls' side. I'm a woman's woman. I also like men. Mrs. Purcell, you claim modern man is hag-ridden and neurotic. If they let women do this to them, as you claim, they're a

pretty poor specimen of man. I don't think they're as weak and apron-strangled as you make them.

While the breast-beating for her failures goes on and charges against her character are thrown loosely about, the woman you call materialistic, selfish, and soulless goes calmly ahead. She runs the best home and raises the finest, healthiest children. She takes an active interest in her community and government. She still has enough energy left over to be the best-looking woman in the world.

Let's look at some of these charges. Certainly the modern woman has washing machines, electric irons, vacuum cleaners, and other conveniences, but somebody has to run them. The genius of modern man hasn't yet invented a gadget to run all these machines — none to make a bed, scrub a bathroom, feed the children and get them off to school, plan menus, and go to the market. Comparatively, very few women can afford trained help in these days of high prices, so they're doing a full-time job. I give the little woman a pat on the back for doing it more quickly and more efficiently than grandma.

And, Mrs. Purcell, I think the American career girl does a wonderful job, too. Most of the offices I know would come to a standstill if it weren't for the smart, crisp girls who run the wheels within the wheels. The girl behind the counter, at the switchboard, in the laboratory, and in the schoolroom

is busily developing all the qualities that go into making the American community the freest and most enlightened in the world. And most of them are contributing time and money to a household, too.

Well, now, it's true that the divorce rate is still very high, but fifty per cent of all married people are men, Mr. Cohn, and I think that they would have to accept fifty per cent of the blame.

In other parts of the world, women haven't yet the freedom or earning power to protect themselves in the clinches, but the moral problem of divorce is not basically what we're examining tonight. In the fields of education, organized charity, and the cultural and civic problems of our towns and cities, the modern woman is the strongest force. She fights ignorance, intolerance, and the social and moral ills of civilization with intelligence and courage.

The unfortunate drift away from spiritual and religious values today cannot be laid solely at the feet of modern woman, Mrs. Purcell. The bulk of church support comes from women, and the average mother tries to instill some measure of decent instincts in her children. This is a mutual responsibility between husband and wife: *(Applause.)*

Now you speak, Mrs. Purcell, of a mother's ambition for her children. What about the fathers who want their sons to be always a little bit better than they themselves

were? Is this a fault? No. It's the American dream.

I don't deny the problem of juvenile delinquency, but I must say I think that the generation growing up now seems level-headed, less prejudiced, and a real credit to their families.

If the world is neurotic and governments stumble and bicker, it is not woman's fault. This field is still controlled entirely by men. Mr. Cohn, maybe we could use a little feminine "know-how" in government and diplomacy. We've tried everything else.

In short, Mr. Cohn and Mrs. Purcell, I don't believe that the modern woman is a greedy, selfish neurotic. There are exceptions, of course, but on the whole she's a good homemaker and mother and worker. She is attractive and has a mind and is a first-class citizen well worth knowing. *(Applause)*

Moderator Denny:

Thank you, Faye Emerson Roosevelt. Well, Mr. Cohn, it looks like they've thrown a few darts in your direction, so I wonder if you like to start this discussion? Mr. Cohn?

Mr. Cohn: I want to ask one question of Mrs. Roosevelt. She talked about the beautiful American women, and I agree that there are. I want to ask her why it is that, while all the women in the United States are young, and they are young until they're 95, and we also have here the curious phenomenon that's unique in the

THE SPEAKERS' COLUMN

MRS. JOSEPH M. PURCELL—Mrs. Purcell, a housewife of Wakefield, Massachusetts, is a member of Hadassah and a member of the Joint Council of International Cooperation in Boston.

FAYE EMERSON ROOSEVELT—In private life, Faye Emerson Roosevelt is Mrs. Elliott Roosevelt. A star of stage and screen, Mrs. Roosevelt appeared recently on Broadway in "The Play's the Thing." Mrs. Roosevelt is the mother of a nine-year-old son by a former marriage.

DAVID L. COHN—A native of Greenville, Mississippi, Mr. Cohn has an LL.B. from the University of Virginia and from Yale. He engaged in business in New Orleans from 1922 until 1931, and was vice president and executive manager of the L. Feibleman & Co. Department Stores when he retired in 1931. Devoting his full time to writing now, Mr. Cohn is the author of many books including *Where I Was Born*

and *Raised*. He also has contributed to many national magazines.

HARRISON SMITH—Mr. Harrison Smith, president and associate editor of *The Saturday Review of Literature*, was born in Hartford, Conn. He has a Bachelor's and a Master's degree from Yale. After working for *Century Magazine* and as an educational book salesman for Century Company, he became a reporter for the *New York Tribune* from 1915 to 1918, serving part of that time as a correspondent in Japan and Russia.

From 1919 to 1928, he was editor of Harcourt Brace & Co.; from 1929 to 1931, vice president of Cape & Smith; and from 1931 to 1936, president of Harrison Smith & Robert Haas, Inc. Then followed two years as editor of Doubleday Doran & Co. and president of Smith & Durrell, Inc. Mr. Smith is now president of *The Saturday Review of Literature*.

United States—namely the "cute woman of 50 or 60"—why do all their husbands look 20 years older than their wives? (*Laughter.*)

Mr. Denny: Mrs. Roosevelt, will you step up?

Mrs. Roosevelt: Well, that's not very difficult, Mr. Cohn. They're probably on their third wife. (*Laughter and applause.*)

Mr. Denny: All right. Thank you. She gives as good as she got. Mr. Smith.

Mr. Smith: I would like to ask our misogynist here one embarrassing question. If he ever got married, what kind of a woman would he want to marry? (*Laughter.*)

Mr. Cohn: Well, that's a very simple question, indeed. I'd want one simply who's gay in the morning and who is fairly reasonable once a week. (*Laughter.*)

Mr. Denny: That's not a very hard bill to fill. Mrs. Purcell?

Mrs. Purcell: I seem to be a little alone here. This has turned out to be a battle of the sexes. That isn't what I was looking for. It seems to me it's like a couple of children, toe to toe—"I'm just as good as you are, so there!" (*Laughter.*)

Mr. Denny: Well, which side are you on, Mrs. Purcell?

Mrs. Purcell: It's not a case of who's better or who's worse. As you said, Mr. Denny, "God made woman." That was the last thing He did. He said He couldn't rest on the seventh day until He'd made woman. Then He knew He could rest. (*Laughter and applause.*)

Mr. Denny: But, Mrs. Purcell, you said in your speech that woman wasn't realizing her po-

tentialities because she wanted the wrong things. Have you any suggestions as to what we can do to make her want the right things?

Mrs. Purcell: To want the right things? If she really gets down to bedrock and knows what she wants for her children. Not to give them cushions to cushion them to life; not to try to escape from life, but to prepare them for life. We have the children from the cradle to six years of age; that's the foundation of the man. I think that's our responsibility, and unless we build a good foundation, I don't see how we can have good men who can build a good world. (*Applause.*)

Mr. Denny: Thank you. Mrs. Roosevelt?

Mrs. Roosevelt: I think we all agree with that statement. I think that these are the least cushioned and the least protected children anywhere in the world in America. They are treated much as adults, much more than other children have been in past times, but I disagree with Mrs. Purcell in one point. You say this isn't a battle of the sexes. But, Mrs. Purcell, you say that modern woman is responsible for all of modern man's neuroses and failures. I think that's a pretty bad statement to make about modern women. I think you made it a battle of the sexes. I think the old boy has had something to do with it, too. (*Laughter.*)

Mrs. Purcell: My reasons for accusing woman of that is that

she is suffering, despite her emancipation and being a modern woman. She has all this freedom and all this power, but she has not rid herself of this old hang-over of feeling that there's something to be ashamed of in being a woman; that dishes and beds and all these things you spoke of, Mrs. Roosevelt, are something that should be pushed to one side. They're not. They are the accoutrements of being a woman. Let's be proud of it, and our children won't feel that. If they feel that it's a wonderful thing to be a woman they won't grow up hating, down deep, women as a lot of our men do.

Mr. Denny: Mrs. Purcell, you think a woman ought to be as proud of being a homemaker as a man should be of being a breadwinner. Is that it?

Mrs. Purcell: That's right, because a man makes the money and a woman turns that money into living. (*Applause.*)

Mrs. Roosevelt: Well, Mrs. Purcell, I'm very proud to be a woman, and most of the women I know are very proud of being women. I think they do their jobs quickly and efficiently and with a great deal of joy. I don't think we ought to make more of our children wish they were women. It would be rather silly if some of our boys turned into girls. (*Applause.*)

Mr. Smith: I say to Mrs. Purcell that women are also the money makers and have to be. The time

is coming shortly when the most marriageable young woman in America is going to be the girl with forty or fifty dollars a week. (*Laughter.*)

Mr. Cohn: Well, if you talk to the economists of the country, they're a little bit concerned about the fact that women now have 75 per cent of all the money in the country. I think you businessmen in the audience understand what is meant by "risk capital." None of this is risk capital, because the lawyers salt it down in two per cent Panama bonds and there it stays in the banks, and is passed on from one woman in the family to another woman in the family and this constantly increasing aggregation of wealth is in the hands of the women of the United States. If you want to find out where the money is, it is in the hands of the women and it's dead capital, because it is never risked. Therefore, the ladies of the country are engaging in an anti-capitalist device; therefore they are great pals of Joe Stalin (*Laughter and applause.*)

Mr. Denny: All right. Mr. Smith.

Mr. Smith: Women own the money, to be sure, because they have inherited the money. They live longer and it is inevitable that they should inherit, finally, all the money in the United States. But it is actually in the hands of men, not of women. It goes to the trustees, brothers-in-law, banks, and so on. Women do not control the wealth that they own at all. They

have taxation without representation. (*Applause.*)

Mr. Denny: Thank you, Mr. Smith. Mr. Cohn is not satisfied with that.

Mr. Cohn: I think Mr. Smith is far afield here. The very fact that they are trustees indicates that the money is in the hands of the trustees for somebody else. The beneficiaries are the women. The men handle the money but the usufruct, as the legal phrase is, goes to the ladies, God bless 'em! (*Laughter.*)

Mr. Denny: Thank you, Mr. Cohn. Mrs. Purcell.

Mrs. Purcell: It's just that absentee ownership that I object to. We women have ownership and we have power, and we should realize the responsibility that goes with it. We have to know what we want, and want the right thing. Our men will get it for us.

Mr. Denny: You want to invest a little "risk capital," Mrs. Purcell? You think the women ought to invest more risk capital?

Mrs. Purcell: Well, if we have real men we don't have to risk it. We can just give it to them and they'll take care of it. But we don't have real men. (*Laughter.*)

Mr. Denny: Oh, I see. All right. Mr. Cohn.

Mr. Cohn: Of course, in this whole field, women are so much wiser than men, because ladies have always learned not to be gentlemen. (*Laughter.*) In fact, they've always known it instinctively.

Let me give you a case in point, namely, the great Queen Elizabeth of England. She did not do what the stupid male king of Spain did, namely, to send his galleons at great loss of lives and treasure out to the Indies to gather the gold of the Indies. On the contrary, the great queen remained in England, and when the Spaniards had conveniently gathered all the gold of the Indies in galleons and they were conveniently off the coast of England, the great queen sent her privateers Hawkins and Drake out to get the gold and they brought it home.

Of course, women have been doing that ever since—quite wisely, from their point of view. (*Applause.*) Moreover, they have always known what American businessmen have only discovered in the last 50 years. Namely, it is not the ownership of the property that counts, it is the control. (*Laughter.*)

Mr. Denny: Thank you, Mr. Cohn. Now, our audience here in Memorial Auditorium in Louisville is about equally divided between men and women and their questions will probably be very provocative. But before we turn to them, our listeners will be interested in the following message.

Announcer: From Memorial Hall in Louisville, Kentucky, we are presenting the 554th broadcast of America's Town Meeting of the

Air, the Nation's most popular radio and television forum. Let me remind you that you may obtain a copy of the Town Meeting Bulletin, containing a complete transcript of the program, by sending ten cents to Box 56, New York 46, New York. Please do not send stamps, and allow two weeks for delivery. The Town Meeting Bulletin is \$4.50 a year; \$2.35 for six months—or you may obtain eleven issues for one dollar.

When you send for your copy of tonight's discussion, you can have your name placed on the Round the-World Town Meeting scroll by enclosing one dollar or more to help take Town Meeting around the world this summer. The scroll with your name and the name of your city or town, will be presented to the mayor of each of the 14 foreign capitals from which your Town Meeting will broadcast during July, August, and September. For every dollar you send you may add another name.

Mail your dollars for democracy to Box 56, New York 46, New York. That's all the address required: Box 56, New York 46, New York.

On this people-to-people basis we shall demonstrate to 14 different countries how Town Meeting can help foster peace and understanding throughout the world—and your dollars will give you a personal share in it. Send in yours tonight!

QUESTIONS, PLEASE!

Mr. Denny: Now we have a fine representative audience here in Louisville. I have the very great pleasure of having here on the stage with me the Chairman of our Host Committee, the Honorable Charles P. Farnsley, Mayor of the City of Louisville, who invited me last night to participate in his Gripe Court, where he invites all the citizens of Louisville to come to his court once a week and give the benefit of their gripes to the Mayor directly. He has the city councilmen there with him, and brings the councilmen up in regards any complaint affecting their department, and they settle the question right then and there.

It's an excellent institution; it's democracy in action; it's people to people. We're very happy to have the Mayor with us tonight and, Mayor, I'd like for you to start the question period. Mayor Farnsley. (*Applause.*)

Mayor Farnsley: I'd like to ask Mr. Cohn if he feels that present-day woman is any more materialistic than her mother or grandmother.

Mr. Cohn: That's a very hard question to answer, but I think I can answer it quantitatively at least. In the times of anybody's grandmother there was very much less to grab.

Mr. Denny: Thank you. Now this gentleman right here.

Man: This question's directed to Mr. Cohn, also. I'd like to know if

he thinks that Margaret Chase Smith, who recently won a seat in the Senate, could best meet her responsibilities by remaining in the home.

Mr. Cohn: That's a question for every individual person to answer. I think that distinguished women—women of great abilities—ought to share the responsibilities of the Government of the United States. To say that no one woman or group of women ought to be in politics, I think, is quite beside the point.

Mr. Denny: All right. Thank you. Now the gentleman . . . no, the lady back there. No, Mr. Traum, you said you had a question for a lady with Number Three. Where is it? There's a gentleman there with Number Three, a question for Mrs. Purcell. These people in the audience are holding up question cards and the question card indicates the name of the speaker to whom the question is directed.

Man: Mrs. Purcell. Do you think that women really want their sons to fight and are thus responsible for war?

Mr. Denny: Mrs. Purcell. Do women want their sons to fight and are thus responsible for war?

Mrs. Purcell: You are asking me a question at a very complicated level and you could have many programs on that subject. I feel that if we restore to the world its moral integrity by build-

ing in children a true respect, by precept, for justice and mercy and understanding of what life is, you will have people grow up who are not going to be in danger of destroying themselves with their own inventions. They won't get so involved. They will see more clearly, and I think that that would prevent wars. (*Applause.*)

Mr. Denny: Thank you. The gentleman over here on the aisle.

Man: My question is directed to Mrs. Roosevelt. Do you consider today's type of modern woman superior to yesterday's mothers who really built the Nation on its firm and solid foundation of family life?

Mrs. Roosevelt: Why, I'm for the modern woman. I think she's a very successful person and citizen. Naturally, her mother must have been pretty much of a person to build her that way. Yes, I think the mothers who built this generation did a very good job. They were modern women, too, comparatively recent modern women.

Mr. Denny: Thank you, Mrs. Roosevelt. Now the lady in the back there.

Lady: My question is directed to Mr. Cohn. I'm Margaret White of radio station WINN. In effect, haven't you asked, Mr. Cohn, the impossible of women as mere humans when you ask them to rectify the tragic messes made by men in jails, courts, and politics?

Mr. Cohn: Well, I don't, as you may seem to think, want to separate men and women into her-

metically sealed compartments. Far from it! But all questions of criminality inside the civilization certainly inside such a civilization as ours, where women have the same right, Lord help us, to shoot and stab as men have, and also to throw acid, and also to get drunk in bars, and do a great many other things—one can hardly say that they have no share in what goes on in the society, and therefore must have some bit of responsibility for rectifying it as nearly as possible.

Mr. Denny: Thank you. The gentleman in this front row here.

Man: Mr. Smith, I would like to know how can the American women expect to receive the affection of their male counterparts for competing with them for jobs?

Mr. Smith: They don't compete with men as much as they help men. In every office in the land for instance, there are women who are helping men make a business succeed. There is very little of that competition going on, and what little there was is now disappearing through the after-effects of this war. During war women go upstairs, and when the war's over they're kicked downstairs.

Mr. Denny: Thank you. The next question over on the aisle.

Man: My question is directed to Mrs. Purcell. Do you consider a woman shirking her duty if she chooses a career alone or if she mixes it successfully with marriage?

Mrs. Purcell: That really isn't what I'm speaking of. A woman may have a career, but she must remember that she is first of all a woman. If she goes out to work, she herself knows that she still has to sort the laundry, see that things are done, and take care of the house besides, even if she has help. Therefore, that is her basic job.

If she has to make a living, that's all right, but any woman who chooses to do it in order to supplement it, to get more material things, is selling her birth-right for her marriage. (*Applause.*)

Mr. Denny: Thank you. The young lady in the center of the hall.

Lady: I would like to address my question to Mrs. Roosevelt. Mrs. Roosevelt, don't you think that women are shirking in their duty to their children to enjoy their social life?

Mrs. Roosevelt: You mean that when a mother has a social life she is shirking her duty to her child? Is that what you mean?

Lady: Not necessarily. What I mean is that in order to enjoy her social life more fully, she is shirking her duty to her children.

Mrs. Roosevelt: I don't think so, because I think that the American mother gives a great deal of time and attention to her children. I don't quite agree with that premise. I think that the woman who has a social life outside of just being a housewife and doing the

work at home is a much more rounded person and able to give her child a better start in life.

Mr. Denny: Thank you. Mrs. Purcell has a comment on that.

Mrs. Purcell: It isn't how much time you give your children—just don't give it grudgingly. Don't give it off the shoulder; give it from the heart. They'll know it; they'll feel it. If it's one word, look at them as if that word is the most important thing in the world. Don't just push them and shunt them aside. That's what children get too much of today.

Mrs. Roosevelt: Not many of the children I know, Mrs. Purcell. They seem very happy. I think mothers are particularly proud. They are raising beautiful and healthy children. They're getting a lot of attention and love. Love is what protects a child in security.

Mr. Denny: These girls certainly disagree about this subject. All right, the young lady on the aisle.

Lady: Mr. Cohn, I'm sure you can take care of this.

Mr. Denny: Mr. Cohn, there's a good lead for you.

Lady: Have women failed when they considered themselves equal by taking up men's vices such as drinking and smoking?

Mr. Cohn: Well, of course, men have some very attractive vices, and I think it's fairly reasonable that women should share them. The only thing I object to, in the general talk of what women do about equality with men, is it indicates a terrible lack of imagina-

tion—that they should want to be merely the equals of men. Why not go beyond that? (*Applause.*)

Mr. Denny: That applause is right here on the platform from Mrs. Purcell who is acting as cheerleader. All right, the gentleman on the aisle over here.

Man: My question is for Mr. Smith. Is not modern woman having so much leisure time today that she has nothing to do but over-coddle her children?

Mr. Smith: It is true that our incredible prosperity today leads many women into idleness. They don't work because they don't have to, and, of course, not all women are mothers with children. There is a great gap in a woman's life after she stops child-bearing, when her children have gone away, when there are far too many idle women. It exists only in this country, perhaps, and will finally find its own remedy.

Mr. Denny: Thank you. The lady way in the back of the hall.

Lady: Mrs. Roosevelt, isn't it an evidence of woman's evasion of her responsibilities that more American money is being spent on cosmetics than on education?

Mrs. Roosevelt: Well, I think that's a rather tragic fact, but I think, also, you must remember that the money being spent on education is being handled and voted by men. I think if you put more women into public office and if women will take the position that I think they are perfectly capable of filling we will be able to bring

up our educational budget. It isn't so much that I object to the large size of the cosmetic budget, but the smaller size of the educational budget but I don't think you can lay them altogether to women. (*Applause.*)

Mr. Denny: Thank you. Mr. Cohn?

Mr. Cohn: I want to say something because in the field of cosmetics apparently women have devised a new phase of culture in this country. That is to say, the cosmetic industry has sold them and they have eagerly embraced the slogan of the house-paint industry, which is: "Save the surface, and you save all." (*Laughter and applause.*)

Mr. Denny: Mrs. Purcell, do you want to comment on that?

Mrs. Purcell: That's my point entirely. The cosmetic industry and all the other industries are just businesses. They want to sell products, and it is what we want. If we show them that we want real things, they'll provide real things and the strains and stress will not just be on the cosmetics.

Mr. Denny: Ah, this is getting hot. Mrs. Roosevelt and Mr. Smith both want to get in.

Mrs. Roosevelt: I just wanted to say, Mr. Cohn, that I've never seen it to fail, the gentlemen always say, "Don't wear lipstick. Why don't you wear a paler pink nail polish, if you wear any?" Then never fails that the next time you're dining out a gal goes by in a tight red dress with high-heeled shoes and more make-up on the

you ever dreamed of wearing in your whole life, and their eyes bug out till they are on their cheeks. (Laughter.)

Mr. Denny: Thank you. Thank you, Mrs. Roosevelt. Now for the summaries of tonight's discussion. Before we have them, here is a special message of interest to you.

Announcer: Ever since we announced our Round-the-World Town Meeting plans, your letters with checks have been pouring into Town Hall, Box 56, New York 46. Doctors, lawyers, rich and poor, young and old have been writing the most enthusiastic and touching letters. Because we are here in Louisville, tonight, under the auspices of the Louisville Teachers' Federation, we are going to ask Miss Frances Given, teacher of English in the Louisville public schools, to read a letter from a pupil in the Schuyler Avenue Public School in Kingston, Pennsylvania. Here is Miss Given.

Miss Given: I am sure this letter written by Judy Pollock in Kingston, Pennsylvania, expresses the sentiment of thousands of school children all over America:

"Our class heard that you wanted to send your Town Meeting of the Air on a world tour and we think it is a wonderful idea. We are sure that if the people of these countries can see how people can meet together and talk over things they will have a better feeling toward democracy. Since we are studying about government in history class, we are very inter-

ested and are enclosing one dollar donated by members of our class. Sincerely yours, Judy Pollock, Secretary."

Announcer: What a marvelous way to practice democracy on a people-to-people basis. I hope Judy Pollock's example will be widely followed.

Now for the summaries here is Mr. Denny.

Mr. Denny: Now here first is Faye Emerson Roosevelt with her summary.

Mrs. Roosevelt: Well, I think the subject has been pretty well exhausted. We may as well face it. Women are people and pretty nice people, and they are here to stay. Men are going to keep on stubbornly falling in love with them and marrying them and being pretty happy about the whole thing. As they say where I was born down in the South, "A man is a wearisome thing," but we love them and they, the poor things, love us. (Applause.)

Mr. Denny: Thank you, Mrs. Roosevelt. And now, Mrs. Purcell.

Mrs. Purcell: My contention here tonight is simply this: We women have so much influence over our men, as well as the education of our children, that we are confusing both the men and the children and even nations and the world by wanting the wrong things. Only when we women really want and insist on the right things and live up to our true potential, can we ever achieve that better world we all want.

Mr. Denny: Thank you, Mrs. Purcell. Now another word from Harrison Smith.

Mr. Smith: If women get neuroses from our present state of civilization and the battle between the sexes, men equal them because they have more stomach ulcers. (*Laughter.*) In short, the American woman stands at the cross-road of destiny. She's asking more companionship from her partner in life. She's ready to assume greater responsibilities. Able women are too often treated with the indulgent admiration given to precocious children.

In finance and politics, they are refused recognition though they have more votes than men and vastly more wealth than men. The dissatisfaction with their present equivocal status is based on having the illusion of power without its substance. Only when the responsibilities of both sexes are balanced and equal will we be able to re-establish marriage on a firm basis once more. (*Applause.*)

Mr. Denny: Thank you, Mr. Smith. Now Mr. David Cohn.

Mr. Cohn: The position of the American male briefly is this: He has the will to power and his wife has the power of the purse. He earns the money and she spends it. He helped abolish slavery in 1865 and became a slave himself in 1866. (*Laughter and applause.*)

He is for unconditional surrender when he fights overseas and is for peace at any price when he quarrels in his own home.

In business, he's out to get, but in marriage he is taught to give. (*Laughter.*) He provides the food then washes the dishes. He fathers children who are taken over by their mother. He drives a car but mama drives him.

He buys one suit a year for himself and his wife is the best-dressed woman in the world but she never has anything to wear. (*Laughter.*)

Nonetheless, the poor creature God bless him, remains a great gentleman. He dies long before his wife and leaves her so much money that, as I said before, 75 per cent of all the wealth in the land belongs to women. (*Applause.*)

Mr. Denny: Thank you, David Cohn, Harrison Smith, Mrs. Purcell, and Mrs. Roosevelt. We ladies and gentlemen, you've given us an extremely stimulating discussion, and we're going to invite our listeners to send in their opinions on tonight's question, "Has Modern Woman Failed Her Responsibilities?" What do you think, friends? Yes or No? Will you let us know by sending your comments to Town Hall, Box 56, New York 46, New York? For your copy of tonight's discussion, enclose 10 cents. Please do not send stamps, and allow about two weeks for delivery.

Next week we'll be at Drew College in Springfield, Missouri and we think you'll be very much interested in the opinions of four outstanding speakers on the subject "Is the State of the Union Still

Good?" Our speakers will be Senator Hubert Humphrey, Democrat of Minnesota; Merryle Stanley Rukeyser, economist of New York; Robert Nathan, economist of Washington, D. C.; and Arthur

Drefs, president of the McQuay-Norris Manufacturing Company of St. Louis.

Plan to be with us next Tuesday and every Tuesday at the sound of the crier's bell.



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